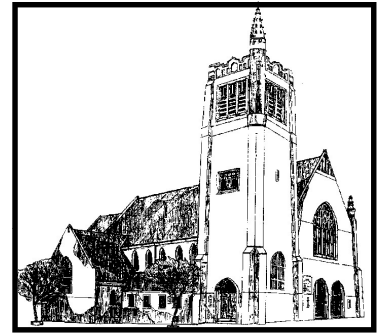




Newsletter of St. George's URC Hartlepool

Part of the Cleveland Joint Pastorate, comprising the Hartlepool and Teesside, and East Cleveland Group of churches

Feb-March 2023



Inspiration sometimes fails me or should I say often! I have been thinking about what I might say and the phrase a blank canvas came to mind. December 31st many of us would be looking back and remembering. January 1st would probably see the same people looking forward to a blank canvas and anticipating. In the Cleveland Pastorate I am sure many are anticipating a positive movement on a minister seeking a move to Northern Synod and in particular 'us'!

Our profile went live in December and I was encouraged earlier this month to hear it was being looked at. Keep praying that from looking, positive movement towards seeking happens.

We are anticipating Spring, or rather longing for Spring. I was so excited last week to see clumps of snowdrops on my afternoon walk, both exciting and encouraging me.

After Christmas, so quickly comes Lent and Easter. Lent courses are being planned and Easter services arranged. What are you anticipating and getting excited about?

Rather than continue with my thoughts I would like to leave you with this verse from Psalm 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God. And put a new and right Spirit within me (NRSV) and these verses by *Hilary Faith Jones*

Eternal God
As the old year passes and the new unfolds

Grant me forgiveness for my mistakes
And grace to forgive those who hurt me.

Grant me wisdom to build upon past experience
And unending delight in creating good things.

Grant me peace within my heart
And the strength of faith to nurture others

Grant me vision to inspire hope
And love to transform each day.

Grant me joy in the gift of this day
And the yearning to live life to the full

Eternal God. Holding time within your hands
Hear this my/our prayer
As the threshold approaches
Heralding new beginnings
Amen

Maranny



Dates for your Diaries - St George's

February

- Wednesday 8th Visit by Eldon Grove Academy Year 1 pupils to learn about why Jesus is special to Christians
- Thursday 16th Elders Meeting, 2.30pm in the meeting room
- Saturday 18th Induction service for Jane Rowell, 10.30am at Stockton Road URC in Sunderland. Please see Margaret H by 30 January if you wish to attend.

March

- Sunday 5th Afternoon organ concert by Ian Pounder from 2.30pm – 4.30pm
- Friday 10th Concert by Maz O'Connor, 8pm start
- Sunday 12th Auckland Due concert from 2.30pm – 4.30pm
- Sunday 19th Kildale Quartet concert from 2.30pm – 4.30pm
- Sunday 26th Concert by Philippa Mo and Hannah Perowne (violin duo) concert, from 2.30pm – 4.30pm.

Further information and ticket details for these concerts can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

Advanced Dates for your Diaries

- Saturday 8th April Easter Coffee morning from 9.30am until 12 midday.
- Saturday 13th May Spring Fair 9.30am—noon

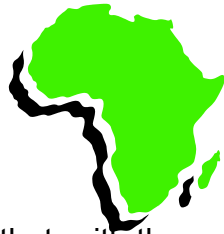
Coffee Rota

- | | | |
|-----------------|----|----------------------------------|
| February | 5 | Gillian Cartman, Liz Moss |
| | 12 | Margaret Fraser, Kevin Hoad |
| | 19 | Enid Bushnell, Val Rigg |
| | 26 | Sheila Harrison, Robert Harrison |
| March | 5 | Paul Rodgers, Gillian Rodgers |
| | 12 | Rose Hastings, Margret Fraser |
| | 19 | Val Rigg, Gillian Cartman, |
| | 26 | Liz Moss, Enid Bushnell |
| April | 2 | Sheila Harrison, Robert Harrison |

Data Protection

To keep church records up to date and in line with GDPR requirements, if you change your address/telephone numbers/email address please let Margaret H know. Thank You.





3

Project Africa

The wonderful news is that, with the help of some very generous donations, we have been able to buy 20 more trees, bringing our total up to 26 in all. It's lovely to think that some places in Africa are greener and some people are being able to make a better living because of our small change.

We now have to decide what we are going to do this year, whether to go on supporting Tree Aid or whether to choose a new project. It's up to you. We have £11.07 to carry forward.



Chris

Food Bank

Please continue to support the Food Bank as you are able in these difficult times. The box is currently in the hall area, but will be moved into the meeting room when worship moves there for the winter. Thank you.

Annual Reports

If you have not already done so, I would appreciate it if you could let me have your Annual Reports as soon as possible. I am more than happy to receive them by email. Thank you, Margaret.

Appeal for more Stewards

St George's is short of door stewards at the moment. If you would like to join the team please speak to Paul H. Stewarding is important as it allows us to greet both our own



Saturday 8th April – Easter Saturday Coffee Morning

10 am – 12 noon

Cakes, raffles, crafts, lucky dip bags and tom-bola

We are hoping to have a chocolate hamper raffle. A hamper will be left out for donations. All money raised will go towards the transport costs of the shoe box appeal.



Saturday 13 May – Spring Fayre 9.30 – 12 noon

All our usual stalls.



Donations and helpers are always needed – please see either Gillian R or Betty.

What can the church office do for you?

We can offer photocopying, laminating, comb binding to produce “books”, as well as the production of tickets, flyers, notices, letter-head paper and other miscellaneous items. If you would be interested in using the office for this purpose please see Paul Humberston.



This won't be you if you let us help!

St George's Venue

After a very busy Christmas period, we are looking forward to an even busier March with 5 concerts in the pipeline. 4 of the events are on Sunday afternoons in Lent beginning on Sunday the 5th March with an organ recital by Ian Pounder. Most of you will know Ian as he is a regular visitor to St George's and often plays the fabulous Binns organ. Ian will be playing a programme of well known tunes and has promised that there will be something for everyone.



On Sunday the 12th March we play host to The Auckland Duo, featuring Andrew Jackson and Chrissie Macgregor. Auckland Duo, play a wide range of music from around the world written especially for flute and guitar, performing it entirely from memory. This could be popular music from Brazil, folk tunes from Macedonia, or avirtuosic Flamenco-inspired interlude from French composer Jacques Ibert. Picture the cafés and night-clubs of Buenos Aires, or couples dancing the tango, as you listen to these beautiful melodies and exciting rhythms. Join The Auckland Duo for their engaging and informal performances of this captivating and refreshingly different music.

On Sunday the 19th March, we welcome the Kildale Quartet. The Kildale Quartet was formed by a group of friends to provide a unique musical experience to a variety of audiences. It is an amateur ensemble specialising in concerts, and is named after the North Yorkshire Moors village where rehearsals were first held. The Quartet aims to create an informal atmosphere during performances, offering programmes containing a mixture of full quartets and other music from a variety of genres, delivered with a brief commentary regarding the historical and musical context of the works being performed. Since its first performance in 2004, the Kildale Quartet has performed in local churches, for Music Societies, and as the accompanying group for a choral society. The Quartet has also given recitals in primary schools, secondary schools and in residential homes. Founder members Peter and Alison were joined by Claire Hall and Bruce Caswell for the 2017 season of concerts.



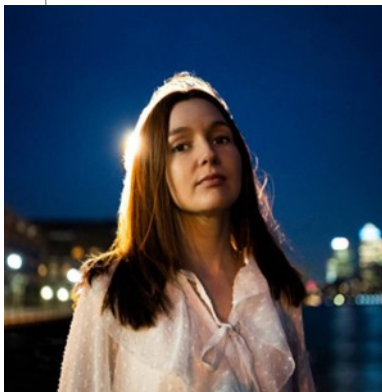
It is with great pleasure that we are featuring Retorica on Sunday the 26th March. Philippa Mo and Hannah Perowne are two of the most talented violinists in the country. Hannah and Philippa bring together a dazzling programme of rarely heard music written for two violins. The major works are by Prokofiev and Rozsa both displaying power and virtuosity and these sonatas are framed by a collection of miniature folk duos by Bartok, Inventions by Bach - finishing with the explosive Passacaglia on theme of Handel by the Norwegian violinist Johann Halvorsen.

Philippa has released critically acclaimed recordings for the NMC, Dutton and Nimbus labels. She was awarded Associate of the Royal Academy of Music (ARAM) in 2015 and she won the Future Classic Women Awards 2020 held by the Women's Radio Station. Hannah performs regularly as guest leader with orchestras including the BBC Philharmonic, the Halle Orchestra, Royal Northern Sinfonia, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, The Philharmonia, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Bergen Philharmonic and Odense Symphony Orchestra

The series of concerts are being presented in St George's in a café style format. The way this works is that the doors will open at 2.30pm where we will invite guests to gather in the church where they will be able to indulge in tea, coffee, cakes and wine refreshments. The artists will begin their recitals at 3.30pm and will perform for approximately 1 hour. The cost for each of the concerts is only £5.00 and there is an option to purchase a season ticket for £16.00 which covers admission for all 4 concerts in the series.



Sandwiched in the middle of the Classical concert series on Friday the 10th March at 8.00pm is a concert featuring the wonderful Maz O'Connor. Maz has been described by The Observer as 'a highly individual singer-songwriter', and a truly unique artist.



Known for her haunting, emotive vocals and poetic lyricism, her songs are most often short stories inspired by her love of literature, folklore and mythology. Her Irish roots, she suspects, inform her love of darker tales—those of heartbreak, longing and loss.

Her latest album, 'What I Wanted' (May 2022), has been widely praised, and called 'an excellent thing' by Mark Radcliffe of BBC 6 Music and BBC Radio 2.

'I'm interested in connection,' she says, 'that's what music is to me. Creating a moment between myself and an audience member, one that's intimate and real. I'm always seeking that.'

If classical music isn't your thing, then an evening with Maz O'Connor definitely could be. She is an extremely talented artist who creates a wonderful atmosphere with her haunting voice, beautiful musicianship and presence. Tickets for Maz O'Connor are on sale now but it is recommended that you purchase them in advance from the church or the CAB priced at £8.50. Online tickets are also £8.50 but with a booking fee. Tickets on the door are £12.50 so advance tickets are definitely the way to go.

Away from the concerts we are looking forward to receiving the grand piano from the Hartlepool Town Hall in the next few weeks. This will live in the east transept and will be moved more centrally if we have piano recitals in the church. If the piano is in place by Friday the 10th March it is possible that it will be used for the first time by Maz O'Connor.

St George's Venue Park Road, Hartlepool TS26 9HP
...presents

Maz O'Connor

Friday - 10th March 2023



Known for her haunting, emotive vocals and her poetic lyricism, her songs are most often short stories inspired by her love of literature, folklore and mythology.

"BBC Performing Arts Fellowship graduate Maz O'Connor is a real find, fusing influences from the past (Joni Mitchell) with those of the present (Bon Iver) to concoct a dazzling array of part electric, part-acoustically crafted folk that occasionally borders on the experimental." (Drowned in Sound).

Doors open 7.30pm Concert starts at 8.00pm
All tickets available on www.brownpapertickets.com or at CAB Park Road, Hartlepool or Pay at the Door

Advance tickets £8.50 Licensed Bar Door tickets £12.50

<https://bpt.me/5652159>

St George's Venue Park Road, Hartlepool TS26 9HP
...presents

Lent Classical Concert Series

Ian Pounder*
Sunday - 5th March 2023 St George's Organ

Auckland Duo*
Sunday - 12th March 2023 Guitar and Flute

Kildale Quartet#
Sunday - 19th March 2023 String Quartet

Retorica* Philippa Mo & Hannah Perowne
Sunday - 26th March 2023 Violin Duo

Concert Sponsors
St George's URC - Hartlepool Music Society - Victoria House Funeral Services

2.30 Refreshments - 3.30 Concert
All tickets available on www.brownpapertickets.com or at CAB Park Road, Hartlepool or Pay at the Door Individual tickets £5.00 Series tickets £16.00

Dick Fletcher

Dick's story has a very romantic beginning. His mum worked in a Scottish castle and during the Great War this was used for wounded soldiers. Dick's mum volunteered for nursing duties and one of the patients was Dick's dad. The inevitable happened; they fell in love, married and made their home in Hartlepool. In 1927 along came George Richard Fletcher, better known to most of us as Dick.

He had a happy childhood. His mother was a really good cook- Dick loved his food- and he would sometimes go with his father to his job as a wheel tapper. This was the start of his love of trains and engines in general. After doing well at school, he was taken on by Richardson Westgarth's as an apprentice electrical engineer, studying 4 nights a week. When he was out of his apprenticeship he travelled all over the country checking on problems with generating equipment.

At one point, things weren't going too well with Richardson Westgarth's so Dick decided to leave and become a teacher as he could see that engineers would always be needed and they needed educating properly. He had already had experience of working with children in Sunday School as a teacher.

As a teenager, his science studies convinced him that there was a greater power behind it all. His mum had gone to the Church of Scotland and he reasoned that, as they lived in England, he should go to the Church of England, St Paul's, in fact. There, he joined in with the Bible Society and Sunday School. He also became a scout leader, even learning to swim so he could take them to camp. So he was well equipped to be a teacher, first at Brinkburn and then at Brierton.

He was determined that pupils should learn by doing and experiencing and that girls should learn physics and chemistry just as much as the boys. Somehow it used to be expected that girls should do biology and leave the hard stuff to the boys. Dick didn't agree. He was an excellent teacher, as the many testimonials from his former students show and the respect of his former colleagues. One day I opened the door to a delivery man who recognised me from Brierton. He said I hadn't taught him but he wasn't at school an awful lot." I used to nick off", he said, "except for science. I had Mr Fletcher and he was brilliant." He was thrilled when I told him I still saw him and has always asked after him whenever I've seen him since.

Dick loved walking in the hills and he and fellow teacher Oscar Coxon used to take pupils youth hostelling in the holidays, sharing their love of the countryside.

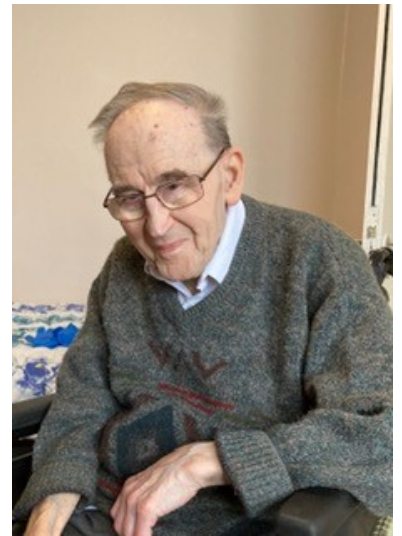
Each teacher has a tutor group, the idea being that they have one teacher they can go to with any problems. One girl in Dick's tutor group thought he was a really nice person and invited him to her birthday party. Dick got to know her mum and married her. At the age of 50 Dick acquired a wife and a ready made family- Jennifer, Martin, Geoffrey and Gill- the little girl from his tutor group.

Having a dad, and, later a grandad at the school couldn't have been easy. Dick told me that one day he heard a ruckus in the corridor and shouted to restore order. Floating down the corridor came a voice, "Oh heck, it's my grandad!"

Dick used to go to school on his bike and when the staff found out he was getting married they disappeared at lunchtime and when Dick went to go home he found his bike all decorated like a wedding car! He said he wondered why he was on his own in the staffroom that day!

His marriage to Margaret was a happy one and lasted 45 years.

We at St George's got to know him as one of our church family. He had decided to look for a different church as he felt it was time to move on from St Paul's and fortunately for us, found St George's. It was obviously a good choice as, at one time we had 4 ex members of Brierton staff in our congregation



Dick became a well-loved member and, later, an elder, appropriately enough one with special responsibilities for the young people. One summer he took over junior church in the holidays to give the regular staff a break. We had a christening party with us one day and their children went out to Junior Church. They had to be dragged out later on as they were enjoying themselves so much.

His advice was always worth waiting for and listening to. He became a member of the worship team and gave a wonderful performance of a hen-pecked shepherd in a nativity play. I doubt he played it from experience. He was a very valued member of my support team when I was doing my Lay Preacher's training and I know he gave the same huge support to others.

He knew everybody in the church and cared for them; he always knew and remembered what their families were doing. One of the last things he did was to write a whole pile of Christmas cards and got me to check his list that he hadn't forgotten anybody.

He was also the treasurer of the Churches Together group and made many new friends there.

The time came when Margaret was starting to lose her memory badly and Dick was wearing himself out trying to look after her and the inevitable came and they moved into Charlotte Grange. Lockdown was hard and Dick had a fall and broke his hip which led to his losing his mobility. He still enjoyed trips out, albeit in a wheelchair.

His must have been one of the brightest minds they'd had there. His memory was much better than mine and he still had an enquiring mind. He did his regular Bible study and followed the printouts of the services here and from the URC that Margaret, our church secretary, sent him. I would tell him about interesting programmes I'd watched on television, particularly about science and he would explain the physics behind them. And he would ask me things about words and their origins, so we learned together every week.

He was a realist and we discussed his funeral. He chose the hymns for particular reasons and wanted everyone to sing loudly. He was concerned about what people would do if they stayed here for refreshments while we take the final visit to the crematorium. I said you would chat, probably about him but he was worried you might be bored. I offered to organise some games and he laughed a lot. But that was exactly him- thinking about others. In the hundreds of posts about him on Facebook, three things stick out: he was a lovely, caring man; he was a real gentleman and a brilliant teacher, and I think this sums him up.

He always finished his phone calls with Good night, God Bless, love you.

Exactly, Dick.

Eulogy from Dick's funeral on 27th January.

Mother's Day Window

The shop window on Park Road draws lots of attention. It would be lovely to celebrate Mother's Day with a display of photos of our mums. It would be lovely if you could let me have pictures of your mum as soon as possible. The ideal would be 2 photos— one of your mum when she was young and one as we possibly remember her. I have one or two already but I need lots more.

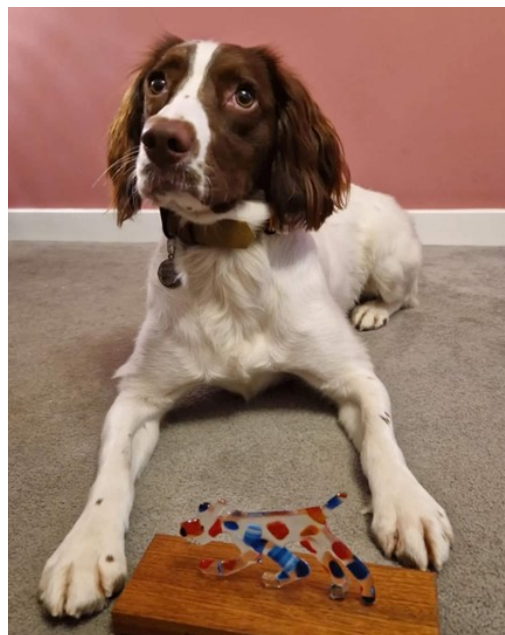
Chris



Pure Dog Adventure Training

For a few months St George's has been the search area for highly skilled dogs who have used the premises to improve their sniffing skills. Thomas has always been on hand to see that things have gone smoothly and we are pleased to say that there have been no issues at all.

The dogs themselves only ever come into the church one at a time and different areas are used as their search areas. Ruby, Thomas and Emily's Springer Spaniel searches for tea leaves, others search for human tissue, truffle oil and microchips. Emily recently won the prize for Pure Dog Detection Trial Level 3 Champion 2022. One very clever puppy and a proud owner.



Ruby with trophy

News of People

We are thinking about Bill and Janet W, Brian and Margaret C, Claire C and Kathy T who are unwell. We also remember the family and friends of Dick F who died recently. Please remember them, and anyone you know who may need them, in your prayers.



Betty and Alan will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on 30th March. Congratulations, you're both looking very well on it!

Flower Donors

February	5	Mrs W Parkinson
February	12	Mrs P Branfoot
February	19	Mrs M Daniel
February	26	Mr F Whittaker
March	5	Miss M Rodgers
March	12	
March	19	Mrs P Simpson
March	26	Mr and Mrs A Woodhall
April	2	Mrs C Eddowes



The Flower Ladies are arranging deliveries on each Sunday morning. If you would like to help on any particular day—just offer.

Stewards Rota		
Date	Stewards	Keys
Feb 5	Paul Humberston, Sandra Hindmarch	Alan Woodhall
12	Liz Moss, Alan Woodhall	Paul Humberston
19	Kevin Hoad, Sandra Hindmarch	Liz Moss
26	Paul Humberston, Liz Moss	Alan Woodhall
Mar 5	Kevin Hoad, Paul Humberston	Paul Humberston
12	Alan Woodhall, Sandra Hindmarch	Liz Moss
19	Kevin Hoad, Paul Humberston	Alan Woodhall
26	Alan Woodhall, Liz Moss	Paul Humberston
Apr 2	Paul Humberston, Sandra Hindmarch	Liz Moss

If you are unable to do your turn, please arrange your own substitute.

Worship in St George's

February

Until the end of February, worship will take place in the meeting room unless the church has been heated on the Saturday for another event.

5th 10.30am Ms Ann Honey, Communion
 12th 10.30am Mrs Chris Eddowes
 19th 10.30am Mrs Chris Eddowes
 26th 10.30am Rev John Elliston

March

5th 10.30am Mrs Maranny Jones, Communion
 12th 10.30am Mrs Chris Eddowes
 19th 10.30am Mrs Chris Eddowes
 26th 10.30am Mrs Chris Eddowes

April

2nd 10.30am Mrs Maranny Jones, Palm Sunday Communion
 Church meeting and AGM follows

this service



From the editor

Copy for the next issue to be with me by lunchtime **26th March** please (or earlier)

Reach me by e-mail on:

chris.richard.eddowes @ntlworld.com

Church Officers

CHURCH SECRETARY

Mrs M Humberston 25 Belmont Gdns
 TS26 9LS tel 425847

CHURCH TREASURER

Mrs Sandra Twist, 17, Granville Ave
 tel 273447

HALL BOOKINGS STEWARD

Liz Moss
 lizmoss1916@gmail.com

Correspondence to:

20 Hart Lane, TS26 8NN

St George's Regular Activities

Sun	10.30am	Family Worship
Mon	6.00pm	Beavers
	6.30pm	Cub Scouts
	7.0pm	Scouts
Thur	10am	Hobbies Club



Church office

Mr P Humberston
 25 Belmont Gardens
 TS26 9LS
 (425847)

Communion Rota

March

Alan Woodhall Betty Woodhall

April

Liz Moss Paul Humberston

All elders to help with clearing up.

Newsletter Editor

Mrs C Eddowes
 65 Hutton Ave
 TS26 9PP
 (269412)

